

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7003

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1874

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RESHUFFLES JUDICIARY OFFICIALS

REF: SEOUL 1535

SUMMARY: MAJOR RESHUFFLE OF JUDGES BY PRESIDENT PARK GIVES  
APPEARANCE OF MOVE TO ASSERT MORE POSITIVE CONTROL OVER  
JUDICIAL BRANCH. END SUMMARY

1. MAJOR RESHUFFLE OF PERSONNEL IN JUDICIARY BRANCH BY PRESIDENT  
PARK WAS ANNOUNCED MARCH 24. TOTAL OF 58 JUDGES WERE AFFECTED  
BY PRESIDENT' S ACTION, 45 OF WHOM WERE NOT REAPPOINTED TO THEIR  
POSITIONS, INCLUDING NINE OF 15 SUPREME COURT JUDGES AND 36  
JUDGES FROM LOWER COURTS.

2. PRESIDENT APPOINTED ONLY SIX NEW JUDGES TO SUPREME COURT,  
THUS REDUCING ITS TOTAL MEMBERSHIP ( INCLUDING CHIEF JUSTICE)  
FROM 16 TO 13. CHIEF JUSTICE MIN POK- KI HAD EARLIER BEEN  
RE- CONFIRMED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AT PRESIDENT' S REQUEST ( REFTTEL).  
ALL OF SIX NEW APPOINTEES ARE CURRENTLY SERVING EITHER AS JUDGES  
IN LOWER COURTS OR AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THEY WERE APPOINTED  
BY PRESIDENT FROM NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED BY SUPREME COURT  
CHIEF JUSTICE, AS PROVIDED IN NEW COURT ORGANIZATION LAW PASSED  
BY EXTRAORDINARY STATE COUNCIL IN JANUARY.

3. COMMENT: NUMBER OF OBSERVERS WERE SURPRISED BY EXTENT OF  
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PRESIDENT' S CHANGES PARTICULARLY RE SUPREME COURT. OF 45 JUDGES WHO WERE DROPPED, ONLY 11 HAD REACHED MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGES SPECIFIED BY NEW COURT ORGANIZATION LAW. NONE OF NINE SUPREME COURT JUDGES DRRIN, ATIQ ALI; PDOB SHAER, IBB, YEMEN, DEC 14, 1951.

19. KORIN, JAMAL ALI; PDOB SHAER, IBB, YEMEN, APRIL 28, 1948.

20. MAFLAHI, MOHSEN KASSE; PDOB JUBAN, RADDA, YEMEN AUG 19, 1952.

21. MAFLAHI, MUSA KASSEM; PDOB JUBAN, RADDA, YEMEN, FEB 10, 1949.

22. MAKHAFI, ABDULAZIZ ALI; PDOB TAIZ, YEMEN, JAN 15, 1945.

23. MAKHAFI, IHSAN ABDULHAMID; IBOB IBB, YEMEN, NOV 19, 1953.

24. MAWRI, ALI, HUSSAIN SALEH; PDOB MAWER, RADDA, YEMEN, SEPT 2, 1934.

25. MAWRI, TAHER HUSSAIN; PDO MAWER, RADDA, YEMEN, MAY 10, 1932.

26. MAWRI, HAMOUD ALI MOHAMED: PDOB MAWER, RADDA, YEMEN, APRIL 10, 1937.

27. MOHAMED, AHMED; PDOB JUBAN, RADDA, YEMEN DEC 8, 1929.

28. MOHAMED, KAID FADHEL; PDOB SHAER, IBB, YEMEN, MARCH 4, 1956

29. NAGI, MUSAIID DHAIFULLAH; PDOB MORAIS, QATABA, IBB, YEMEN, JUNS 25, 1949.

30. AL- SAID, AHMED; PDOB NADERA, IBB, YEMEN, DEC 20, 1946.

31. EL- SAIDI, MOHAMED MUSLEH; PDOB SHAER, IBB, YEMEN, FEB 16, 1951.

32. SALEH, MANSOUR NAGI; PDOB BADDAN, IBB, YEMEN, SEPT 4, 1946.

33. SALEH, SAAD NAGI; PDOB BADDAN, IBB, YEMEN, JULY 25, 1943.

34. SALEH, SALEH MUSA; PDOB JUBAN, RADDA, YEMEN, FEB 11, 1956.

35. SAYED, AHMED MOHAMED; PDOB NADERA, IBB, YEMEN, AUG 8, 1943.

36. SAYED, NAGI MOHAMED; PDOB NADERA, IBB, YEMEN, AUG 20, 1936.

37. SHOHATEE, MOHAMED AHMED; PDOB BADDAN, IBB, YEMEN, FEB 1, 1947.

CRAWFORD

UNCLASSIFIED

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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